

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 201983 TOSEC 090124  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 201983 TOSEC 090124

EXDIS FOR HABIB

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 13970 ACTION SECSTATE  
INFO JIDDA LISBON TEL AVIV 23 AUG 77

QUOTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 13970

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PO XF

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE /ARAB DIFFICULTIES

1. PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR PEREIRA DE SOUSA CAME TO SEE  
ME TODAY IN A STATE OF SOME AGITATION. HIS LEAVE HAD  
BEEN CUT SHORT TWO WEEKS AGO AND HE HAD BEEN ORDERED  
TO RETURN BECAUSE OF CURRENT PORTUGUESE/ARAB CONTRETEMPS  
OVER ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAELI EMBASSY IN LISBON.

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2. PEREIRA DE SOUSA RECALLED THAT LAST MONTH, PRIOR  
TO HIS LEAVE, HE HAD DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH ARAB LEAGUE  
SYG MAHMOUD RIAD TO WHOM HE HAD TRIED TO EXPLAIN  
PORTUGUESE POSITION. PORTUGAL HAS HAD ISRAELI CONGEN  
IN LISBON FOR TWENTY YEARS AND LATTER'S POSITION HAD  
SIMPLY BEEN ELEVATED TO AMBASSADOR. PORTUGAL IS NOT RPT

NOT AT THIS TIME ESTABLISHING RESIDENT EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV. MOREOVER, HE HAD TOLD AL SYG THAT PORTUGUESE WOULD BE WILLING HAVE RESIDENT PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN LISBON. RIAD HAD TOLD HIM SAUDIS ARE ESPECIALLY EXERCISED ABOUT PORTUGUESE ACTION AND HAVE ASKED THAT ITEM BE INSCRIBED ON UPCOMING ARAB LEAGUE FONMIN MEETING AGENDA. RIAD HAD WARNED THAT SAUDIS MAY PRESS FOR BOYCOTT AGAINST PORTUGAL. IF THEY DO, AMBASSADOR OPINED, ALL OTHER ARAB STATES WILL GO ALONG. MORE ONE OFFERS TO THE ARABS, HE COMPLAINED, THE MORE THEY SEEM TO DEMAND. HE ASKED FOR MY ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION.

3. TOLD HIM I HAD NOT FORMALLY DISCUSSED IT WITH ANY GOE OR AL OFFICIAL, BUT I TOO UNDERSTOOD ITEM HAS BEEN INSCRIBED ON FONMIN'S AGENDA. ONE OF MY OFFICERS HAD BEEN TOLD BY AL ASST SYG THAT IT WAS NOT A HIGH PRIORITY ITEM, BUT THIS CLEARLY WAS NO ASSURANCE FONMINS WILL NOT TAKE SOME KIND OF ACTION. I TOOD HAD HEARD REPORTS SAUDIS WERE PUSHING IT. SAUDI INFLUENCE IN SITUATION OF THIS KIND WILL DOUBTLESS BE STRONG AND OTHER ARAB STATES MIGHT WELL GO ALONG. I ASKED IF PORTUGUESE GOVT HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH SAUDIS AND ALSO WHETHER HE HAD DISCUSSED IT WITH GOE TO EXPLORE WHETHER LATTER MIGHT BE WILLING TO HELP. PEREIRA DE SOUSA RESPONDED PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATIVE AT UN HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BAROODY, WHO HAD SPOKEN VAGUELY ABOUT CONVEYING PORTUGAL'S SECRET

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VIEWS TO SAUDI AUTHORITIES. SO FAR AS GOE IS CONCERNED, HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH MINSTATEMOHAMED RIAD AND MFA UNDERSEC SALAH EL DIN HASSAN. BOTH HAD BEEN VERY COLD AND SHARPLY CRITICAL OF PORTUGUESE ACTION. THEY HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT VALIDITY OF HIS EXPLANATIONS.

4. I SUGGESTED THAT HE MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT ABA AL KHAIL. ON BASIS MY OWN KNOWLEDGE OF SAG, ABA AL KHAIL IS MORE TIED IN WITH SAUDI HIERARCHY THAN BAROODY IS. MOREOVER, ABA AL KHAIL WILL DOUBTLESS BE MEMBER OF SAUDI DELEGATION AT UPCOMING FONMINS MEETING AND IS ALSO BROTHER OF SAUDI MINFINANCE. PEREIRA DE SOUSA NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED IN EFFECT TO LIE LOW BEFORE FONMINS MEETING. I EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT IF LISBON HAS INFO WHICH WOULD SUGGEST THAT SAUDIS WILL NOT PRESS MATTER, THIS IS A GOOD TACTIC. IF IT HAS NO SUCH INFO, IT IS QUESTIONABLE. PEREIRA DE SOUSA SAID HE KNEW OF NO INFO IN POSSESSION OF HIS GOVT WHICH WOULD SUGGEST SAUDIS KAVE CHANGED THEIR MINDS. HE PLANS TO ASKLISBON'S AUTHORIZATION APPROACH SAUDI AMBASSADOR ABA AL KHAIL.

5. I RECALLED THAT DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT TO EGYPT, YOU MENTIONED POSSIBILITY THE HE MIGHT RAISE SUBJECT WITH SADAT AND/OR FAHMY. DID HE DO SO, AND IF SO, WHAT WERE RESULTS? IF YOU THINK IT ADVISABLE, I WOULD BE WILLING SAY A WORD TO FAHMY ON THE MATTER. CANNOT, OF COURSE, GUARANTEE HOW RECEPTIVE HE IS LIKELY TO BE. EILTS. UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER".

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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